Bush accepts nomination, promises a 'safer world'

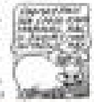
NEW YORK—...

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace turns off aircon in the name of austerity

By Juliet L. Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria



Saturday, September 4, 2004 • 36 pages / vol. 19 / no. 269

School stormed, 100 dead

Reports say over 400 also wounded in Russian hostage crisis

DEATH LEAP



Fisher-blows one...



...He prepares to jump ...



...And plunges.

BESLAN, Russia—Russia's hostage crisis came to a chaotic climax Friday, erupting into explosions, gunfire and screams of fleeing children as commandos stormed the school where militants strapped with bombs had held hundreds of captives for a third day. More than 100 people were killed and 400 others wounded, reports said.

[illegible]



IT'S ALL OVER. A man carries a terrified boy as a soldier and a volunteer stand behind the a fence during the rescue operation in Beslan, North Ossetia, on Friday.

Now, it's called the 'Bayanihan Fund'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nati Gamboa

[illegible]

GMA in 7th heaven, thanks China

By TJ Burgonio

BEIJING ...

[illegible]



[illegible]

POST-ABORTION CARE

Doctors, nurses lack basic skill to handle 'A' cases

By Stella O. Gonzales

SPECIAL REPORT

DOCTORS and nurses spend at least seven and four years in medical and nursing school, respectively ...

[illegible]

Who's right: GMA, ₱1B, Pagcor, ₱3B

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. ...

[illegible]

Top customs official dismissed, charged for graft

By Volt Contreras and Doris C. Dumlao

THE OMBUDSMAN has ordered the dismissal ...

[illegible]

Proposed tax on churches, other religious groups nixed

INSTEAD of collecting taxes from the Church, why not give a portion of the taxes you collect to the church?



JOB FAIR

Hundreds of unemployed Filipinos form a long line to apply for available jobs during the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Job Fair at the Federation building on Muelle de Binondo.

SPORTS





CHRIS Baloyot of SSC grabs a rebound in yesterday's game against Letran.

Knights demolish Stags

SSC misses Final Four; SBC, Mapua dispute fourth slot

Peping bloc bares POC candidates



JANIOLA (left) strikes a pose with Ortiz.

Janiola takes on Ortiz in IBF eliminator



Military warns vs cut in intelligence funds

By Alcuin Papa



BILATERAL MEETING
President Macapagal-Arroyo poses with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand following their bilateral meeting held at the State Guest House.

COA stance on Luna work puzzles GSIS

Pinay maid who won suit vs Sony exec decries slavery

DoJ studying Misuari's bid to post bail

By Philip C. Tubeza

Taguig cagers seek revenge

Spring, 2 PBA fives vying in Brunei

Iloilo lady booters gain semis vs NCR



Hot Maroons train sights on Archers

SPORTSWATCH

Garces battles Thai pug tonight

Team MayniLA raring for HK action

GCAP derby series starts Monday

7-Stag National lures 110 entries

Alaska extends Allado, Duat pacts to July

Consistent play a must

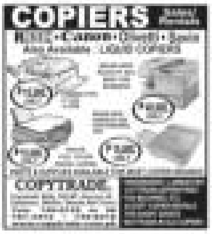
Knights . . .

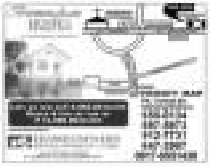
Dangerous move

SPECTATOR

Across-the-board wage hikes pushed

By Carlito Pablo





Pentagon gang leader killed

Top customs official dismissed, charged

'Harassment case'

Collection case

Closer scrutiny

In-law employment

Valera defense

Upheld by CA

'Not fair'



Rosales fires ace for 68, trails leader Kim by six strokes

Record awaits Milo run in Davao



US OPEN

Kids can't keep up with old man Agassi

Tuason rules Shell karting

Sharapova and Williams advance amid struggles



Generals score 10th straight win

Stackhouse graces Streetball tilt



The WORLD



SECOND TERM BID
US President George W. Bush (left) is joined on stage by his wife Laura after speaking at the Republican National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City Sept. 2. Bush formally accepted his party's nomination for a second term in office. (Story on Page 1)

Israel threatens Syria strike after bombings

Hopes mount French hostages in Iraq will be freed

US Marine found guilty of abusing Iraq inmates

WorldBriefs

Hurricane 'Frances'

Milosevic trial

Assassin weds

Tense Katmandu

China workplaces still 'very dangerous'



TV FRAMES grab combination showing Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins of Australia as she hurries off the catwalk after unintentionally revealing her G-string during a fashion show in Sydney, Sept. 2.

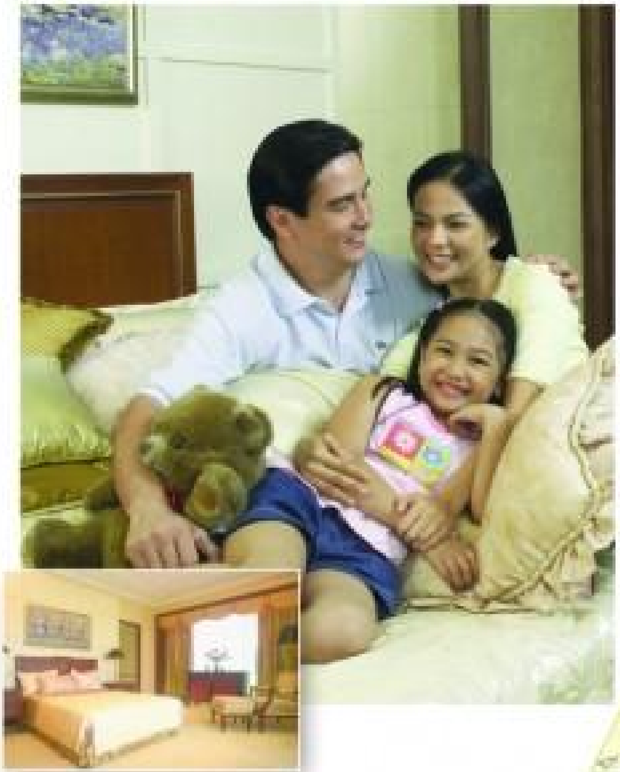


HAWKINS in more formal wear.

Miss Universe does a Janet Jackson in 'wardrobe malfunction'

Mahathir on Anwar: I made a PM's decision







School stormed by Russian troops, 100 dead

Now, it's called the 'Bayanihan Fund' as donations pour in

GMA in 7th heaven, thanks China for $1B in investments, loans

Palace turns off aircon in the name of austerity

Palace defends inclusion of GMA kin, nannies in China visit

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

Army officer hits 'twisted' promotion system at AFP

By Alcuin Papa

How to tap the youth a challenge to gov'ts

Bush accepts nomination, promises a 'safer world'

Shaped by tragedy

US headed in wrong direction?

Tough guy image

Texan's swagger



PRESIDENT Bush and the First Lady, Laura Bush, wave at the end of the Republican Party national convention on Thursday in New York.

US to help RP curb drug trafficking

CEBU CITY—The United States government will help the Philippines in its fight against illegal drugs in the form of equipment and training, US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone Jr. said here yesterday.

Ricciardone said the US would be sending Timothy Teal, the chief of the US Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA), to help train Philippine law enforcers and to provide [illegible] narcotics counter-intelligence.

The US envoy made these pledges at a meeting with Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, House committee chair on foreign affairs, and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

Cuenco, who is also House committee vice chair on illegal drugs, had written to Ricciardone about the "runaway proliferation" of the illegal drugs in the country.

He said it was necessary to look into the US strategy in the fight against illegal drugs as the latter had more than a 90 percent success rate in prosecuting drug cases compared to the Philippines' 2 percent.

The DEA experts will help train the policemen members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visayas, the Cebu City Police Office and the Cebu Provincial Police Office.

Cuenco said the team, probably numbering 10, would stay in Cebu for a week and would bring in some equipment needed for the training exercise to be held in late September or early October.

Ricciardone clarified that the training would include policemen from all over the country although the venue would be either Cebu or Manila.

Aside from Teal, the US will also be sending a legal attaché to confer with authorities on improving the prosecution of drug cases, he said.

Ricciardone suggested that the Philippines might adopt US wiretapping practices to track down drug lords as well as kidnappers and terrorists. He said wiretapping can be done the right way and used as admissible evidence without encroaching on personal freedom.

"Strengthening the rule of law is important to everything, to business. There is a need for a good legislation. We can share expertise, you can look on ours," said Ricciardone.

Cuenco, who authored the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, said he planned to file a bill to amend the country's wiretapping law but said he expected objections to it.

"It's about time we utilize this. There is a police power of the state, we can tap phones, cell phones of the drug pushers and drug lords," said the congressman, adding that he would hold public hearings so people would know how important it is.

Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay meanwhile has tapped a former classmate to continue the campaign against drug trafficking that he led before becoming PNP chief.

Director Ricardo de Leon, Aglipay's mistah at Philippine Military Academy Class 1971, will now head the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, the PNP unit that Aglipay headed.

The appointment of De Leon, who will concurrently head the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, is seen as the PNP leadership's way of appeasing him after he was virtually shoved out of the organization by being appointed to the PCTC.

De Leon headed for six months the National Capital Region Police Office. He was succeeded by Director Avelino Razon Jr.

A senior police official said De Leon could have moved up the PNP hierarchy had not Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, a PMA batch mate, been appointed as the PNP's third in command.

His new job will be quite demanding. Aglipay has said that there are now 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines. He said drug trafficking was now a P15-billion industry despite the government's recent success in going after drug syndicates. *Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Christian V. Esguerra*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Is the world safer?

EDITORIAL

OFFICIALS threw the book at them, and yet the protesters came. The conservative, cautious New York Times estimated the number of protesters that swarmed the streets of Manhattan on the first day of the Republican National Convention at a staggering 500,000. If arrests are any indication, the protests that began that day were indeed large: 1,760 arrested and counting. Government warnings of anarchists being used as a cover by terrorists, a huge police presence, and even denials of permits to protesters, including the Republican mayor of New York refusing a permit for a rally in the city's Central Park on the excuse there was fresh grass that might be trampled, couldn't stop the onslaught of protest.

But the protests also could not stop the Republican counteroffensive in an election that is already putting the bitter contest of 2000 to shame. One by one, the big guns of the Republicans, including show-biz star turned California governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, went to the podium to denounce their Democratic opponents.

It was, however, the very choice of the venue for the Republican political fiesta—the city of New York—that set the tone for the campaign. From the day it was announced months back, New Yorkers were outraged over the selection of their city for a purely partisan exercise calculated to take political advantage of the Sept. 11 tragedy. Not just because New York City is heavily Democratic, but because their city's ordeal is something they felt shouldn't be demeaned by being turned into a party mascot. Many New Yorkers voted with their feet, fleeing the city for the duration of the convention. Many more also took to their feet in protest.

At a time when a million American jobs have been lost, the Republican party has decided to anchor its campaign on George W. Bush's image as a war leader. The convention featured his wife singing his praises as a commander; it continued with more such praises from his vice president and even a Democratic politician who once helped nominate Bill Clinton; and it ended with Bush himself making a prime-time speech proclaiming the enduring virtues of his "War on Terror."

The world, however, could not have failed to notice that even as the Republicans beat the war drums in New York, two buses were destroyed by suicide bombers in Israel; hundreds of young students were taken hostage by bomb-wielding terrorists in one of the former republics of the Soviet Union; bombs continued to explode in Iraq; and Osama bin Laden remains free.

The Republican party is hoping to achieve victory on the basis of the inability of terrorists to mount a serious attack on the United States. It ignores the results the Republican-led war on terror has had on so many other countries: Spain, bombed; Thailand, with its Muslim region seething in rebellion; Indians, Japanese and Filipinos held hostage in Iraq. From a myopic point of view, the argument may hold water that America is safer; but Americans, and those who try to be her friends, are not. In the end, America is not safer: it has merely held off attacks for now, at great cost to her prestige, influence and economy.

America has not seen so many arrests during a political convention since the late 1960s, when the American youth, outraged over the Vietnam War, stormed the Democratic convention in Chicago, much more violently, it must be said, than the protesters that took to Manhattan's avenues. To those who are old enough to remember Vietnam, there is an eerie sense of déjà vu that arises from witnessing a nation that professes such idealism straying so far from the path of its own beliefs.

The Republicans have proclaimed their convention a "defining moment" in the contemporary history of America. Their opponents concede that there is, indeed, a fight for the very soul of their country. For people like us, watching from the periphery, it must be asked, is the world safer?

The world surely has an answer, and it is no. But it doesn't vote in American elections. It just has to live with their consequences—or die because of them.

Hogging the pork barrel

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Lower real income, more equal distribution

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Symbols

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivarez-Cunanan



Listening to the choir

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Calamities

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Dumb ads and smart ads

YOUNG BLOOD

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ...?

Coed killed by BMW

Amend oil deregulation law

LETTERS

No to 'Swiss challenge' for SSS shares

Fair media reporting: no need to apologize

False prophets

Doctors, nurses lack basic skill to handle 'A' cases

PMAC program

Counseling

No funding

More gains

Still ongoing

The Pangasinan 'A' experience



FAST FACTS

Who's right: GMA says it's ₱1B, Pagcor says it's ₱3B

Real value

No fixed formula

Discretionary fund

Suspicion

Across the NATION

Call to 117 saves woman trader from abduction

Aglipay apologizes for wrong info on Damalerio slay case

Atienza reiterates call for return of police control to LGUs

Baguio scraps beauty tilt for 'super' moms



Gov says IRA cut a threat to peace

Post office bears brunt of cost-cutting measures

Airport cop returns bag with ₱470,000

'Lumad' leader says Army arming tribes

Ex-cop tagged killer of human rights leader

Tanong ng Bayan

OCW sa Iraq: Dapat na bang alisin ang ban?

InqBox Question of the Week

With over 70 provincial journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986, what do you think should be done to finally end the killings?

Key in: inquirer news name/city/message. Text your answers to 2307 (Globe) or 383 (Smart). (Maximum of 160 characters)

Case vs gov attackers lowered from attempted murder to 'disturbance'

[illegible]



CRAWLERS

[illegible]

ROUNDUP

Rice overpricing



[illegible]

Goby banned in Cagayan

[illegible]

Bicol execs in Intramuros

[illegible]

Rural water supply

[illegible]

Agrarian reform zone

[illegible]

Defensor orders Biñan dump closed

[illegible]



GETTING HIGH

[illegible]

Tarlac council to mediate in Luisita labor row

[illegible]

Drug suspect slain as she emerged from court

[illegible]

GenSan fishing firm to sue 10 crewmen for mutiny

[illegible]

INQUIRER Visayas

[illegible]

Fight continues to save Samar's forest

By [illegible] Lidres
[illegible] City

THE FIRST anniversary of the declaration of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) as a protected area may have gone unnoticed, but the renewed call to protect the island's remaining natural resources still reverberates throughout the three Samar provinces.

"The one-year anniversary is [illegible] a reminder especially to Samareños that we are blessed with natural resources," said Bishop Jose S. Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog.

Bishop Palma—together with his counterpart in Northern Samar, Bishop [illegible], and in Eastern Samar, Bishop [illegible]—has been spearheading the move to protect and conserve Samar's diverse biological resources.

As the SINP reached its first anniversary, Bishop Palma has called on the people to be vigilant, saying that "miners are there to find ways to extract our minerals."

[illegible]



LUSH vegetation nearly covers the Calbiga Caves, which is inside the area of jurisdiction of the Samar Island Natural Park.

[illegible]

Preservation efforts

[illegible]

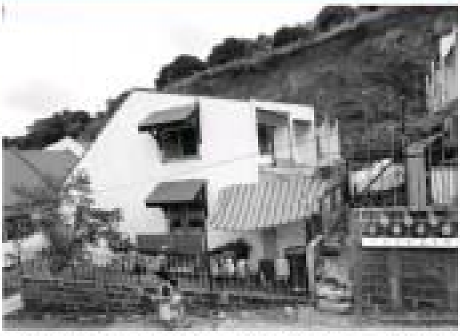
Logging, mining ban

[illegible]

METRO

San Mateo's hilly paradise in peril?





Alternate plan for C3 Road

Suspect in journalist's slay gives up

Child killed as father leaps from footbridge

Brilliant exchange of barbs

ON TARGET



Hotel, trade firm closed

BUSINESS

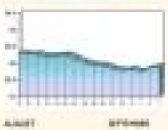
Export growth in July slowest for 2004

THE COUNTRY'S export earnings inched up by 3.2 percent in July to $3.1 billion from a year ago, the slowest pace of growth seen this year, due to the weaker global demand for electronics.

TOTAL EXPORTS

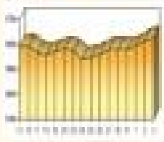


Currencies



Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close higher

ARRIVALS UP 34% AS OF MAY

PCCI calls for increased investments in tourism

By Ronnel W. Domingo

[illegible]



[illegible]

Legal eager

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

[illegible]

BMW launches the X3 Drive Tour

Driving excitement, golf lessons, and great prizes await guests.

[illegible]



The BMW X3 - ideal for the active lifestyle.

Bankers volunteer for back-breaking work

CORPORATE CITIZEN



'I Volunteer'



Books for the 'under-served'

Social development arm

Positive feedback





Davao brings pork to Luzon

[illegible]

Piltel ups authorized capital to ₱12.8B

SEC OKs Sunlife bid for more securities

Export growth . . .



SATURDAY Super

My special K trip





HAIR DO: Sandwiched between Jeni Mendez and Henri Calayag

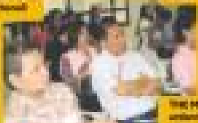
MAKEOVER MADNESS: [illegible]



PROPAGANDIST Alex Carbonell



DJ [illegible] at Coco Latte



THE MOST ardent student wins



HAIR(S)TOCK: The Kerastase team with Toni & Guy at the Singapore Academy



BLONDES: [illegible]



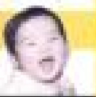
A-LIST: [illegible]

It was my most surreal Singapore trip. On my way to Coco Latte to party with the Kerastase girls, I realized that I was sandwiched in a cab between two hair gods. To my right was THE Henri Calayag and to my left was Jeni Mendez.

[illegible]

Now that's surreal.

Tim Yap





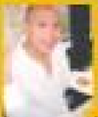
SWEETHEARTS: [illegible]



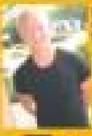
PARLOR GAMES: [illegible]



SALON SEXY: [illegible]



[illegible]



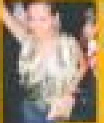
DAVID Mercer of Toni&Guy Singapore



HAIR TODAY: [illegible]



FIT TO A T: [illegible]



FUN, FUN [illegible]



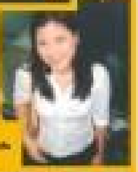
HAIR APPARENTS: [illegible]



HAIR SPRAY: [illegible]



HAIR MAJESTIES: The Kerastase Team in full party swing



SINGLE STRAND: [illegible]



TRESS PASSES in Singapore's party scene



BEST [illegible]

[illegible]

Hairdresser as consultants

[illegible]



MUSE FLASH: Marga [illegible] shows off Itsie-bitsie's latest holiday collection, unveiling on Sept. 8.





A flair for the affair

Itsie-bitsie Boutique has a little secret to spill

By [illegible]

NIGHT falls and the music plays. Long-stemmed glasses clink, signaling the rush hour of human traffic. The dance floor, bathed in light, transforms into an intimate space for affairs to be remembered, or forgotten the day after. There is only an air to every party. The most crucial element is that inevitable glow, that sparkle, or simply, "that feeling" which celebrates the lightness of being.

Itsie-bitsie Boutique knows all about that feeling. The [illegible] of Manila's most stylish is about to acquire a fresh new look and bigger space. [illegible] to the latest collection, just in time for the round of holiday affairs. Wallflowers need not apply—the new lines invite the light, sophisticated feeling with the softest fabrics and exquisite details that are meant to be noticed. "It's all about that party feeling," says Issa Delgado, the woman behind the coveted affair. "It's about the freedom of the shape, the lightness of the fabric—and clothes being worn as if they were jewelry."

Itsie-bitsie's newest collection reads like an exclusive guest list of some of the world's most sought-after brand names today: Catherine Malandrino, Nanette Lepore, Elie Tahari, Cosmic Mint, Velvet, Twelve from London and [illegible] from Italy. Every piece is a standout, with a unique workmanship that "transcends seasons," as Issa puts it. "When you buy it, it's trendy and now but it becomes a classic a year later, because it's part of versatile and fresh."

Personifying such subtle elegance is Itsie-bitsie's newest muse, Marga [illegible]. A little urban legend has it that Marga was once walking the streets of Paris when Karl Lagerfeld himself stopped her in her tracks, entreating her to model for him. Marga, certainly one of Manila's most beautiful women, declined and walked away. The truth behind this urban legend is, well, it's no legend!

Issa must have better persuasive powers than Lagerfeld. "Marga has a lot of style, plus a freshness and elegance that stands out," she says.

To unveil its new look and bigger shop space, Itsie-bitsie will host an afternoon tea party on Wednesday, Sept. 8. With the exciting collection in focus, it should be an eventful affair!

Itsie-bitsie Boutique is located at 1730 M. Adriatico, Malate. Visit their website at www.itsie-bitsie.com, or call [illegible] for details.

SATURDAY Super



KC UPDATES us about her life in the city of cool.

Secretary in the City

SO FAR, it has been hard work and great fun working for the TV company Propager, which made the intelligent decision (I need to stress that) to hire me as

KULIT CO.



KC Concepcion

their secretary. My sked had been changed to a 10 to 6 (although "9 to 5" sounds better). I work hard (not), make a lot of phone calls to editors of important channels, write a lot of e-mails, put on lots of different accents (including Mauritian) and take a lot of coffee breaks (yes, Starbucks is finally in France). Work is going well, especially because of the very helpful advice from some of the greatest friends in the world who bother to pull me out of the darkness! I am pretty successful BECAUSE OF those who share some wisdom and those who share what they pretend is wisdom, and also those who are honest enough not to share any wisdom because they frankly do not feel that they have any.

The other day, I was receiving order forms from around the globe. Our reports are always free of cost and free of broadcasting restrictions for the networks we contact because we are funded by the EC. Cool, huh?

Well... to make the story a bit more interesting, I was assigned countries like Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany and Ireland. I helped to catch up on some calls on the evening shift, calls that involved US channels such as CNN, the Discovery Channel and ABC, as well as CBS. TRIP!!!

In my Europe list there was also COSMOPOLITAN Spain and I talked to an editor-in-chief about our terrorism report and he was, like, "Well, it's great because you see, we focus only on lovely things, we focus on human relations and sex."

Also, it's interesting 'coz the US channels have this way of being extra meticulous about details including, "Where is the tape now, as we speak?" *Ngeks. Pero standards talaga nila kakaiba!* Sometimes the person you'd just been talking to on the phone, biglang mar-iring me as radio (the sounds they play when they put you on hold) when calling a different channel. Weird talaga ha ha! So list ko naman, funny sometimes. I called a channel and the guy said this to me: "SPEAK ONLY SLOVAK."

My darling babes... do you speak Slovak?



DIFFERENT accents, one Filipina









A party recipe from Godskitchen

PRE-HEATING

Ready to fry

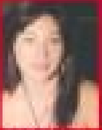
Serve while hot

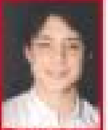




















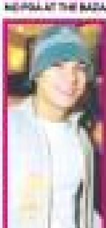
SUPER! MARKET

How bazaar!

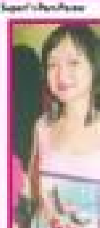














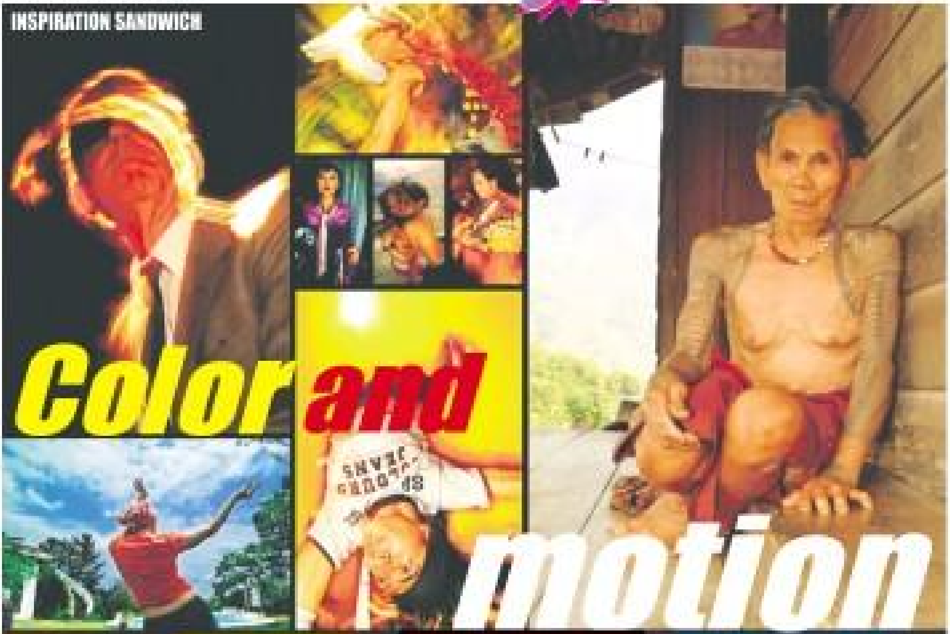






INSPIRATION SANDWICH

Color and motion



ANDY Malacha calls himself the Aggressively Shy Stick Abstract Hunter.

A heavy user of really raw asymptotic tools, he is also known as an eccentric, humorous artist with a philosophy problem and without the slightest commercial potential.

But he has a serious side. Humorous, just kidding.

According to him, it is darn good to be an artist. "It adds a little zest to everything you do," he says.

The real catch, though, is to have a concept for anything you do. This is where he gets serious. A concept is the difference between design and art, between photography and art photography, he says.

He also likes to point out: "In art, you don't consider the consequences. You create first, and then maybe sell. Based on that philosophy you can freely develop your own ideas and styles without anybody imposing on you their misconceptions of commercial appeal."

He doesn't know he does what he does.

About four years ago, professional digital cameras became good enough and cheap enough for average people to afford them. Andy decided to buy himself one. Most photographers worried about the reported shortcomings of such cameras. And yes, if you looked long enough, you might find stuff that a film camera could do a lot better. But Andy, the incurable artist, carried on, experimenting along the way.

He discovered not only tricks and means that a digital camera could do better; he found those that couldn't be done with film at all.

Photographers, under the pressure of their own demands and client's preferences, tend to prefer working in controlled settings—everything should be fixed and "re-creatable," the better to comply with some art director's specifications, with even more pie to come.

Some things get lost along the way, Andy points out. Spontaneity and soul don't develop well in such settings.

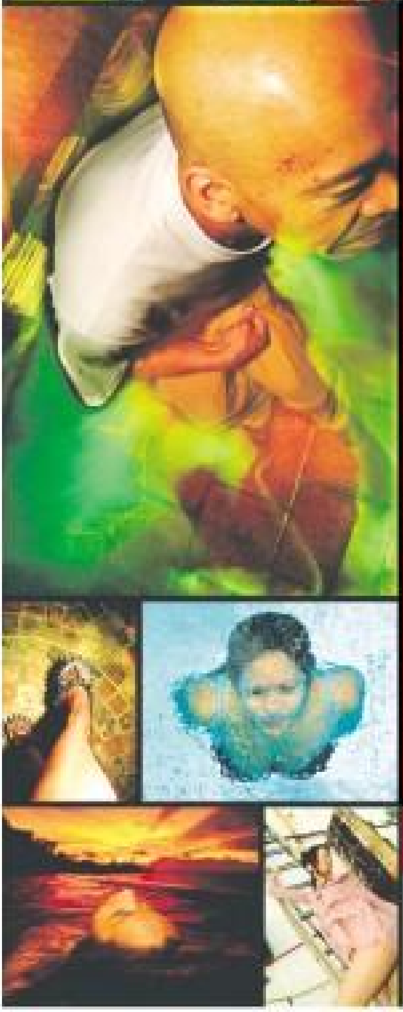
The hardcore experience gives the artist something like a controlled set. Or at least it narrows the margins, he says, but within these margins, one has to become comfortable with the unexpected.

Andy is very comfortable slipping and sliding through the unknown.

"I like to exploit the unexpected. I like to surprise it, and steal the picture before it realizes what happened."

Andy Malacha's photographs in large formats are on exhibit from Sept. 3 to 23 at Bilique, Republic Glass Bldg., Salcedo st. cor Legaspi st., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information visit Andy's website: http://[illegible]









COFFEE [illegible]

Say what?!

Lemon-aide



Giselle Segovia

L[illegible]

"Say Anything," [illegible] "St. Elmo's Fire," "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club" [illegible]

[illegible]

Saturday, September 4

[illegible]

Sunday, September 5

[illegible] "Say Anything" [illegible]

Monday, September 6

[illegible]

Tuesday, September 7

[illegible]

Wednesday, September 8

[illegible]

Thursday, September 9

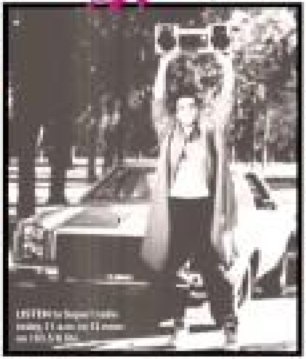
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Friday, September 10

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WHEN you say nothing at all...



LISTEN [illegible]



KISS the girl

[illegible]

The word for the bored

"I don't want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career. [illegible]" —Lloyd Dobler (John Cusack), Say Anything (1989)

The Super! list

Reality show teams, hot South Africans, and 8 other pop secrets that we want to spill this week

Age against the machine
Gino de la Paz

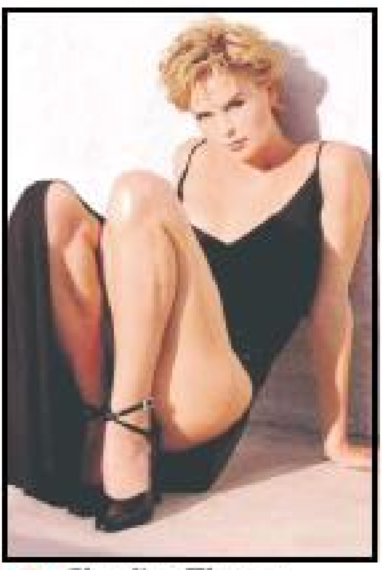




1 MTV's 'Pimp My Ride'

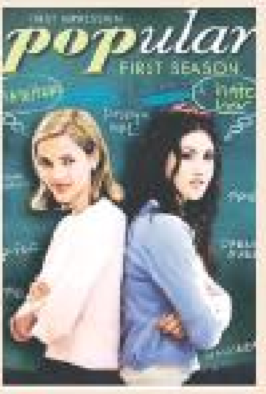
Just when all you playas thought your '87 Sentra was on its way to the scrap heap, along blazes rapper Xzibit and an out-of-the-box smash show called "Pimp My Ride." Tired hatchbacks not only turn into tricked out sexy beasts, but become works of customized art as well.

("Pimp My Ride" airs on Thursdays at 10 p.m., Sundays at 9:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. on MTV.)



2 Charlize Theron as Aeon Flux

From an ugly murderer in "Monster," Hollywood's favorite South African hottie Charlize Theron is now set to play the sexy title character in "Aeon Flux," an animated series that called MTV home in the nineties. Filming in Berlin was temporarily suspended, however, when Charlize suffered an unspecified injury while doing a wire-hanging action sequence. It's back to guns and tight costumes—not to mention a high-protein, low-carb diet—once she recovers.

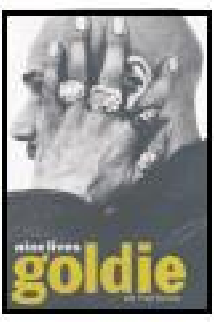


3 'Popular'—The Complete First Season DVD

If the names Mary Cherry, Brooke McQueen and Josh Ford sound familiar, it's because they're characters from the sorely missed WB high school dramedy "Popular." But Kennedy High's queen-bees-and-wannabes story arc lives on as the first season DVD set hits the streets on Sept. 21, 2004.

4 Nine Lives –Goldie

As a drum'n'bass icon, Goldie is a total original, taking the sped-up drum breaks from the British underground to international ears. As the subject of an unconventional autobiography, Goldie is a shapeshifting inspiration. Together with author Paul Gorman, he documents his journey to cult superstardom through photos, collages and heartfelt text, that together make "Nine Lives" such a fascinating page-turner.





5 'Coupling'

Most people will automatically call "Coupling" the British "Friends," but that would be a cop out. BBC's "Coupling" dips more into "Seinfeld" territory with its insanely addictive portrayal of sex, vexed exes and excesses. If you're sick of American sitcoms, the show's point-of-view narratives might just be your cup of Earl Grey tea.

(Catch "Coupling" on Star World every Saturday at 10 p.m.)

6 Metrosumosexual

With the inevitable demise of the so-called metrosexual comes a new and more self-deprecating version of the modern man. Coined by Men's Health columnist Joe Queenan, "metrosumosexual" refers to men who don't mind people thinking they're fat. Now if only there were a female equivalent.

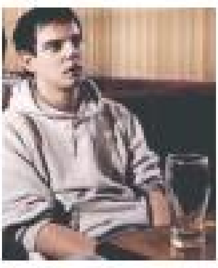


7 'Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometimes,' Beck

The Michel Gondry-directed feature "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" gave a new smoky twist to the words "déjà vu." Not surprisingly, the accompanying soundtrack had the same hazy power. As Joel Barish (Jim Carrey) drives around in his beat up Corolla, a familiar voice amps up the melancholy and captures the moment in all its desperate glory. The melodic murmur apparently belongs to Beck, who is back in the radar with his brilliant remake of an 1980 hit by Korgis. Download it now.

8 Video for The Streets' 'Dry Your Eyes'

First came Britpop. Now comes Brithop. In this music video masterpiece by Danish director Edvard Wood, Mike Skinner, aka The Streets, finds that man's best friend is the only companion for a lonely lad who is always thinking about his broken relationship. We've all been there, right?





9 Colin and Christie from 'The Amazing Race 5'

I thought that all the monsters in this show answered to the names Charla and Mirna, but boy, was I wrong. Barry Watson look-alike Colin became the stuff of small-screen legend when he unleashed his psycho persona in Tanzania, refusing to pay the cabbie full fare just because their taxi was rolling on a "donut," or a flat tire, among other things. Nonetheless, he remains one half of my favorite team because a) Chip looks too much like Hootie, b) the models secretly worship the devil, and c) the other teams just suck.



10 Busted vs. McFly

Busted echo Bill Haley with "Thunderbirds Are Go," while McFly channel Chuck Berry on "That Girl." At least in Britain, pop seems to have come full circle as these two bonafide bands hammer out hits with a charming friskiness and an eternal summer vibe.